

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)



The program establishes or improves coordination systems in rural areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources.

Communities often find it difficult to locate and acquire funds and other resources to improve the quality of life for their citizens. Communities can find opportunities to support their endeavors through the USDA's **Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program**.

RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for Resource Conservation and Development technical and financial assistance program funds.

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development Program is to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas.

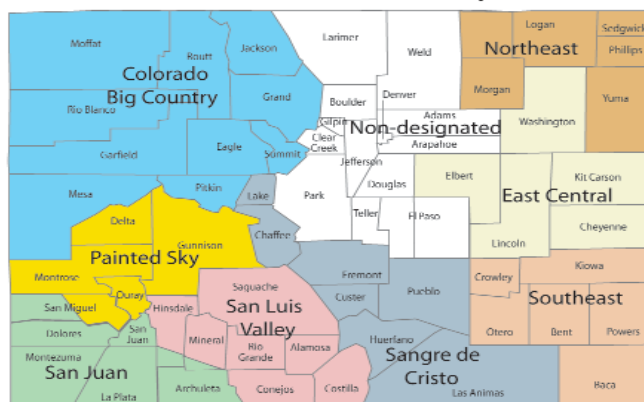
The Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide grants for land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs in authorized RC&D areas.

2004 Accomplishments

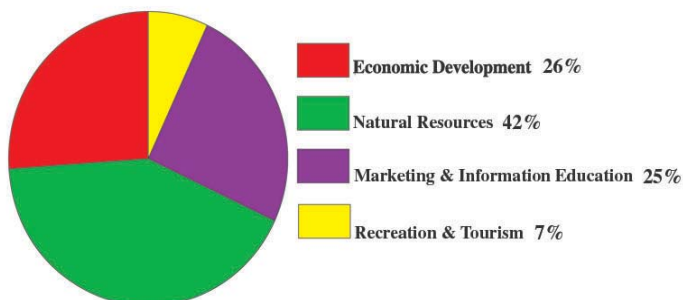
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RC&D Areas Serve 52 of Colorado's 65 Counties

Colorado Resource Conservation & Development Areas



RC&D Major Areas of Focus



Project Activities

Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council services seven counties. Its goals include wise management of water resources, healthy and productive natural resources, coordinated planning, a diversified economy and preservation of western heritage. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Upper Arkansas Watershed Council
- ✓ Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study (CoCoRaHS)
- ✓ River and Riparian Study Center
- ✓ Upper Arkansas Weed Management Cooperative
- ✓ Small Diameter Roundwood Demonstration Project

San Luis Valley RC&D Council services six counties. Where Ideas Can Become Reality is the Council's pledge to its customers. Their voices are heard and their ideas developed so that they can actively pursue common sense solutions to community problems. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ San Luis Coordinated Noxious Weed Program
- ✓ Costilla County Soil Survey
- ✓ Willow Creek Reclamation Committee
- ✓ Rio Grande Grass Finished Beef
- ✓ SLV Environmental Conservation Education Council

Southeast Colorado RC&D services six counties. Projects improve the agricultural and rural economy in southeast Colorado to create a more diversified economy through tourism and recreation, and to preserve important historical elements in southeast Colorado. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Bent County Museum Project
- ✓ Wiley Community Trails & Bikeway
- ✓ Eads Athletic Fields
- ✓ EPQ 319 BMP evaluation for Prowers County

San Juan RC&D services eight counties. Its goal is to accelerate the conservation, development, and use of natural resources to improve the level of economic activity and to enhance the environmental standard of living in the San Juan Basin. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Dry Fire Hydrants for Rural Fire Protection
- ✓ River Riparian Education Trailer
- ✓ Vallecito Lake Volunteer Lake Monitoring Group
- ✓ Animas River Stakeholders Group
- ✓ Pine River Watershed Group

East Central Colorado RC&D services six counties and covers 7.8 million acres of Colorado's eastern plains. It promotes community, economic, and natural resource development. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Hugo Fire Department equipment grant
- ✓ Lincoln County Economic Development
- ✓ Hines Park Play Ground
- ✓ Burlington-Kit Carson Storm Water Management
- ✓ Flagler Community Development
- ✓ Drennan School Historic Structure Assessment
- ✓ Hedlund House Museum Historic Restoration/Preservation

Colorado Big Country RC&D Council services ten counties covering more than 17 million acres. Based on a community input, the Council is targeting its efforts on sustainable communities, water, and habitat. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ 2006 Colorado Weed Calendar
- ✓ South Canyon Invasive Species Management Partnership
- ✓ Yampa River Diversion Structure
- ✓ Satellite Monitoring Systems for Irrigation Ditches
- ✓ BLM/County Weed Control Partnership
- ✓ College Scholarship Program
- ✓ Partnerships with Regional Trails Groups

Northeast Colorado RC&D is the newest RC&D. It services six counties totaling 4.5 million acres. The council is in the process of updating their long-range plan to better meet the needs of the region. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Republican River Riparia Project
- ✓ Wind Energy Development
- ✓ Home Town Competitiveness Academy
- ✓ Russian Olive Demonstration

Painted Sky RC&D services six counties totaling 6.1 million acres in west-central Colorado. It promotes economic and natural resource enhancements and improvements within its communities. ***Current projects include:***

- ✓ Fire planning in wildland urban interface
- ✓ County Partnership Restoration (CPR)
- ✓ Cactus Park Water Storage Project
- ✓ Selenium water quality/endangered fish
- ✓ Montrose Recycling